

connecting member between the first ring section and an adjacent ring section, a second end cover section and an intermediate cover section between the first and second end cover sections.

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49. The stent assembly of claim 48 wherein the second end cover section is between undulations of the second ring section and on underlying portions of the second ring section.

50. The stent assembly of claim 48 wherein a plurality of connectors extend between the first ring section to an adjacent intermediate ring section.

51. The stent assembly of claim 48 wherein a plurality of connectors extend between the second ring section and an adjacent intermediate ring section.

REMARKS

The above new claims are believed to be directed to patentable subject matter. Consideration and an early allowance thereof along with the other pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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